# Agricultural Groundwater **Monitoring Program**

# Warwick Aquifer

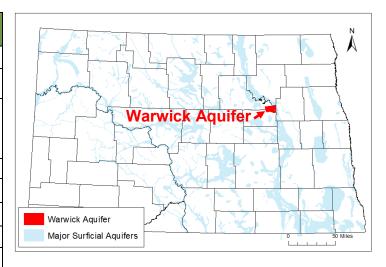
## Benson and Eddy Counties

Aquifer At-a-Glance					
Area	74.3 square miles				
Aquifer Type	Unconfined Surficial				
Major Land Uses over Aquifer	Grassland/Pasture (45%)				
(percentage of aquifer area covered in 2017) <sup>1</sup>	Crops (30%)				
Depth to Water (2017)*	2-32 feet				
Total Unique Wells Sampled	48				
Wells Sampled in 2017	23				
Samples Collected in 2017	27				
Years Sampled	1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017				

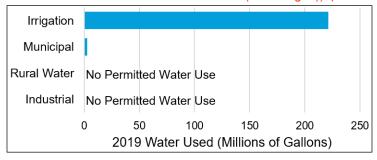
- \*Depths to water may vary seasonally, year to year, and across the aquifer
- Aguifer materials consist of sands and gravels that were deposited by streams moving meltwater away from glaciers during the last ice age. In Eddy county, there is a second, deeper aquifer layer of similar origin separated from the upper layer by silt.<sup>2,3</sup>
- The aguifer ranges from 10-200 feet thick and averages about 74 feet thick in Benson County and 40 feet thick in Eddy County.<sup>2,3</sup>
- Domestic and irrigation wells are common in the aquifer.
- The city of Warwick draws water from the aquifer.
- In North Dakota, permits are required to withdraw large quantities of groundwater. In 2019, 224 million gallons of permitted water were drawn from the aquifer; irrigation use consumed the largest quantity of water. For more information on water use and permits, contact the North Dakota State Water Commission (swc.nd.gov).

#### References

- US Department of Agriculture, 2017, National Agricultural Statistics Service Cropland Data Layer.
- Randich, P.G., 1977, Ground-Water Resources of Benson and Pierce Counties, North Dakota, North Dakota State Water Commission County Ground-Water Studies 18-Part 3, North Dakota Geological Survey Bulletin 59.
- Trapp, H. Jr., 1968, Ground-Water Resources of Eddy and Foster Counties, North Dakota, North Dakota State Water Commission County Ground-Water Studies 5-Part 3, North Dakota Geological Survey Bulletin 44.



#### 2019 Warwick aquifer permitted water use (from North Dakota State Water Commission (swc.nd.gov)) \( \preceip



# **About the Agricultural Groundwater Monitoring Program**

- The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality monitors a network of wells in approximately 50 surficial aquifers that are at elevated risk of agricultural contamination.
- Aquifers are sampled on a 5-year rotation.
- Monitoring began in 1992.
- The vast majority of these aquifers are located in central and eastern North Dakota.
- Water is tested for 21 general chemistry parameters, eight trace metals, and 64 pesticides.

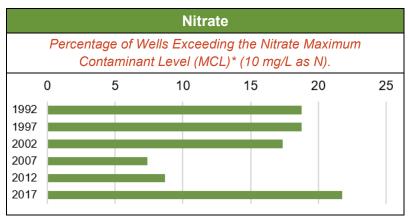
# **Water Chemistry**

Is Aquifer Water High in...?

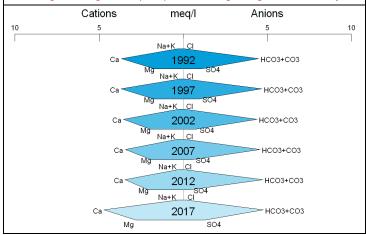
	Analyte	Result	2017 Median Concentration	Potential Effects
	Arsenic	Locally	0.006 mg/L	Skin or circulatory system damage, increased cancer risk
r	Iron	YES	2.66 mg/L	Matallia tasta/aday dia adayatian of augusta
	Manganese	YES	0.93 mg/L	Metallic taste/odor, discoloration of surfaces
?	Sodium	NO	5.2 mg/L	Taste, people with certain health conditions may need to limit intake
	Sulfate	NO	61.8 mg/L	Taste/odor, laxative effect for people not used to the water

For more information about Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), health effects, and treatment options for these contaminants and more, see the NDDEQ's fact sheets (deq.nd.gov/wq/1\_Groundwater) or visit the US EPA website (epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

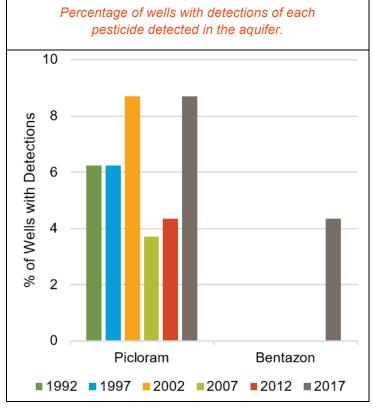
Dominant Water Type	Water Hardness
Calcium-Bicarbonate	Very Hard







# **Pesticides**



### **State Pesticide Management Plan**

Agricultural Groundwater Monitoring Program aquifers are monitored as a part of the State Pesticide Management Plan. A Prevention Action Level (PAL) threshold of 25% of the pesticide's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)\* or Health Advisory Level (HAL) is used to identify whether action is needed to prevent further contamination.

Prevention Action Level Exceedances	None
MCL or HAL Exceedances	None

Number of Unique Wells with Pesticide Detections since 1992

**6** of 48 Total Wells

2017 Pesticide Detections					
Picloram	2 Wells	Herbicide applied to crops and roads/rights-of-way			
Bentazon	1 Well	Herbicide applied to crops			

\*Note that MCLs are for public drinking water systems; private wells are not regulated in North Dakota. MCLs still provide guidelines for drinking groundwater.